# DWeb Focus Group - DWeb Organizers

October 22, 2020

## Latest draft of the Principles

## Introductions (10 min)

*May I record this session?*
*Name, location, affiliation, pronouns, how you got involved in DWeb issues?*

## Preface (5 min)

- Identify a common destination, but not a shared path
    - Not have to agree on doing things the same way, but trying to reach similar aims
    - On the other hand, the way you build technology undeniably shapes it
- Internet Archive has played a role of being a facilitator and convener of diverse projects
- We have N number of people here, please try to speak 1/nth of the time

## Discussion

- What are your thoughts about the Principles as they stand currently?
- Where do you want the DWeb community/movement to be in 10 years?
    - What are some concrete features of that community you'd like to see?
- What are some essential, specific commitments that you'd like DWeb projects to fulfill?
- How do you imagine people applying these principles?
    - First, we would ask organizations/projects to endorse them
    - Ex. Linking to them on their website; Encouraging collaborators to sign on

### Follow-up Questions

- Big tent vs. being too exclusive — Where do we draw the line of what is "DWeb" and what is not?
    - Is there a benefit to having a hard line on certain issues?
    - Operating with resource constraints — What are the acceptable tradeoffs?
- What would it look like for a project to "follow" or "endorse" these Principles
- How do you see these Principles and discussions around them shape the DWeb?
    - Will projects be more sustainable, inclusive, equitable for instance?
- What are the provocative issues?
    - Sources of funding? Ownership/governance structures?

## Closing

- Next steps
    - Conducting other focus groups until mid-November
    - Aim to have a new working document by end of November
    - Work on a manifesto statement
- How would you like to stay involved?

Notes

- Dawn

*Audio recording on Mai's phone!*

## Discussion Notes (typed from written)

Participants

- Dawn
- Ben
- Gerben
- Mai

Notes

- Dawn
    - Design Justice Principles
    - Environmental Justice Principles
        - Mismatch from these spaces
    - Aspirational, how community is knit together, to not be specific
    - Intention is movement building
    - More positive aspects of how to build towards a shared future
    - Who's the "We" -- **Document this process**
    - Mish mash is okay (like the EJP) just a form of editing to make it easier to read
- Gerben
    - 3.III -- A,B,C,D - Specificity is an improvement
    - Maybe elevating that higher
    - "Tech agnostic" is misaligned with issues below -- it's not naively (?) agnostic
    - 3.II + III - Is NOT tech agnostic, maybe higher level?
    - 3.III.A Should be higher up
- Citing other principles, that we're should to shoulder with
    - Inclusivity from lens of DWeb, so not explain human rights explicitly

        - >> Interdependent
- Gerben: Not just decentralized, interdependent
    - +1 on Principle 4.1 - phrasing sentences
        - “In order to support the spirit of invention” -- Implying values by saying what we stand for (16:54 in recording)
    - Start high level - empower
- Human rights (Dawn)
    - Name UN Declaration of Human Rights, be specific
        - How do you respect sovereignty + autonomy
- Distributed benefits - (19:22 in recording)
    - Tech → way of being in the world
        - Why isn’t power and capital in this?
        - Power should be named, why not?
    - Be <u>bolder</u>
    - Spice it up
- Gerben: Where do we want to go with this? Just describe how people feel currently, or to shape the DWeb community?
- Dawn: Snapshot of movement? Or catalyze change or action? These things happen in fragmented spaces
- 5. Respectful (Dawn)
    - So [unaligned] with this -- What does this even mean?
- Code of Conduct - how is it enforceable?
    - “Support and encourage” is watered down
    - You must have a strong CoC
    - But does it even need to be mentioned?
    - Public CoC  - positive behaviors (it’s in the intro blurb)
- 5.2 Code of Conduct (32:31 in recording)
    - Dawn - language is unsatisfying
    - Gerben - What CoC is what community? Many communities in the DWeb
    - Internet freedom fest community - Noisy square, Wiki, Sandy Ordoñez
    - Pluralistic ways, acceptable/unacceptable behavior
    - Gerben - specify what acceptable behavior means?
- 6. Transparency (1:11:32 in recording)
    - Dawn
        - Principle is underdeveloped so thorough unpacked in open source dev space
        - Add more nuance - unpack this principle at the end of the section
        - How open source communities can marginalize people? Transparency can be exclusive to people who feel unsafe
        - “Producing” open source code? Licensing?
        - Terms to use: interdependence, pluralistic
    - Ben
        - equitable distribution, not to perpetuate existing power structure
- 7. Environment

        - Dawn
            - Needs to be more exciting, nuanced
            - Take language and inspiration from sustainable transition, Green New Deal
            - Just transition
        - Ben
            - Commons, Elinor Ostrom (1:05:01)
                - You need boundaries - every layer needs to recognize equitable boundaries
            - Ex. CoC as a boundary - drawing lines in the sand
- 2. Distributed Benefits
    - Gerben
        - Might be further down or reformulate - focus on success/benefit at first prioritizes **money**, scale, over other priorities
        - Presumes monetary success
        - Making boundaries of financial sustainability wider
    - Solidarity, mutually supportive - focus on **labor**, more than the success

# Chat log

mai
1:03 PM
https://docs.google.com/document/d/16NtoS_bSC4qV9cJ6ECFPTY66Qy3jSXWFbUuQDrU-IvQ/edit

Dc
1:45 PM https://internetfreedomfestival.org/

Dc
1:49 PM Sandy Ordoñez

Dc
Dc
(offline)
1:50 PM https://www.boringcactus.com/2020/08/13/post-open-source.html
did y'all read this?
post mozilla layoffs

Benedict Lau
1:51 PM

I finally found a serious project using Licence Zero's Prosperity

Dc
1:51 PM
"FOSS is dead. free software died long ago, and open source software was a lich the whole time, only now claiming victory and beginning to pull up the ladder behind it. what will come next?"

Benedict Lau
1:51 PM
>The freedom to run the program for any purpose.

Benedict Lau
1:51 PM
This is like "Communities must be completely open."

Dc
1:54 PM
https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/2926676.2926685

Dc
1:58 PM
oooh, another one: https://www.manifestno.com/
"a declaration of refusal and commitment"

Be
Benedict Lau
2:23 PM words -> https://handbook.hypha.coop/vision.html

Benedict Lau
2:25 PM more words ->
https://web.archive.org/web/20200122192201/https://www.rootsystems.nz/context/vision.html